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SS

Control: 3844

Rec'd: November 10, 1962  
5:51 p.m.

Info

FROM: New York

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1733, November 10, 3 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED 25

Authority State let 7/25/77  
By smg, NARS, Date 8/16/77

ACTION DEPARTMENT 1733; DOD 63, CINCLANT 2.

DEPT PASS DEFENSE AND CINCLANT

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

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THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS TRANSMITTED BY TELEPHONE AKALOVSKY (USUN) TO MENDELEVICH (USSR); IN AMPLIFICATION OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED BY MCCLOY TO KUZNETSOV COVERED IN USUN 1709:

"IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT PROTEST OF 9 NOVEMBER REGARDING U.S. INSPECTIONS OF THREE SOVIET VESSELS, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED:

1. NO U.S. VESSEL AT ANY TIME THREATENED THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ALEXANDROVSK, DIVNOGORSK OR VOLGOLES.
2. FIVE OF THE NINE SOVIET SHIPS LISTED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AS BEING UTILIZED TO REMOVE MISSILES FROM CUBA DID NOT SAIL AT THE TIMES NOR THROUGH THE POSITIONS STATED BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES. THE FACT THAT THESE VESSELS WERE NOT IN THE POSITIONS GIVEN TO THE U.S. BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES RENDERED THE LOCATION AND INSPECTION OF THESE VESSELS DIFFICULT, AND RESULTED IN SOME OF THE EXAMINATIONS HAVING TO BE MADE AT GREATER DISTANCES FROM THE ISLAND OF CUBA THAN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD THE POSITIONS OF THE SHIPS BEEN CORRECTLY PROVIDED.
3. FOUR OF THE NINE SHIPS LISTED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD ON BOARD NUMBERS OF MISSILES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE NUMBERS GIVEN TO THE U.S. BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES.

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4. ALTHOUGH ALEXANDROVSK WAS NOT INCLUDED ON THE LIST OF VESSELS TO CARRY MISSILES PROVIDED THE U.S. BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT MISSILE RELATED EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE ON BOARD ALEXANDROVSK. SINCE NUMBERS OF MISSILES IN OTHER SHIPS PROVIDED BY THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES HAD PROVED TO BE INACCURATE, ALEXANDROVSK WAS APPROACHED BY A U.S. NAVAL VESSEL IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT SHE MIGHT HAVE MISSILES ON BOARD. ALEXANDROVSK WAS ASKED TO OPEN HER HATCHES TO FACILITATE THE EXAMINATION. ALEXANDROVSK REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST. SHE WAS NOT ASKED TO STOP.

5. DIVNOGORSK, WHEN APPROACHED, HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN COMMUNICATING WITH THE U.S. VESSEL IN HER VICINITY. ONCE THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM HAD BEEN SOLVED, HER INSPECTION WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT FURTHER DIFFICULTY. SHE WAS NOT ASKED TO OPEN HER HATCHES OR TO STOP.

6. WHEN VOLGOLES WAS FIRST APPROACHED SHE WAS REQUESTED PARTIALLY TO UNCOVER THE MISSILES SHE HAD ON BOARD. VOLGOLES DID NOT COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST AS HAD BEEN AGREED UPON. SHE WAS THEN REQUESTED TO STOP. VOLGOLES DID NOT COMPLY WITH THIS REQUEST. SHE WAS NOT ASKED TO OPEN HER HOLDS. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY VOLGOLES WAS REAPPROACHED AND BY THIS TIME APPARENTLY HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE UNCOVERING OF THE MISSILES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT. HER MISSILES WERE PARTIALLY UNCOVERED ON THIS OCCASION AND THE REQUIRED INSPECTION WAS COMPLETED. HAD SHE PARTIALLY UNCOVERED HER MISSILES ON THE FIRST OCCASION, THE SECOND APPROACH WOULD HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARY." STEVENSON

AAL/1

Note: Relayed White House, DOD, CINCLANT, 11/10/62 6:15 PM., GWL

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